

# Boosting the regeneration process of Europe's coalfield regions



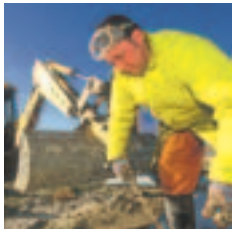
GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES



Good practice guidelines



General view  
of the Nalon river (Spain)



Coal face  
(United-Kingdom)



Rosa Company at Tychy  
(Poland)



Science park of Gelsenkirchen  
(Germany)



Tourism at Mezhdurechensk  
(Russia)



Historical mining center of  
Lewarde (France)



Coal face  
(United-Kingdom)



Cap Découverte  
(France)



Training course at the "Training  
Foundation" (Spain)



Orlova mining site  
(Czech Republic)



# Good practice guidelines

## Boosting the regeneration process of Europe's coalfield regions

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES



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## RECORE, a remarkable operation during a period of transition

RECORE is a programme (“Regenerating Europe’s Coalfield regions”) with a wealth of distinctive features, which has been undertaken at the instigation of the members of Euracom (European Coal-mining Association). This programme of exchanges of experience stands out first and foremost by the nature of the partners involved, given that it has been carried out exclusively by representatives of the local authorities of the mining regions. Indeed, these latter have to bear the brunt of the aftermath of the decline of the coal-mining industry.

RECORE has also demonstrated that the transformation of the mining regions is not a simple process. It is one that encompasses all aspects of regional development. In this context, RECORE has made it possible to produce a comprehensive overview of the issues and achievements of regional policies in the mining regions including: infrastructure, the environment, the enhancement of cultural heritage, economic development and training. This overarching approach to redevelopment is one of RECORE’s distinctive features.

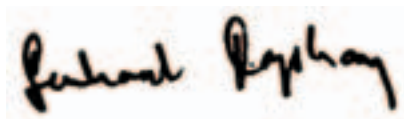
Furthermore, RECORE has highlighted the fact that the mining regions make up a distinctive community underpinned by solidarity. This remarkable identity is the legacy of a common industrial and social history, which has left a deep imprint on the regions and communities concerned.

Finally, the RECORE programme has also considered the role of local authorities and regional development during the present period of transition, during which the European Union itself is undergoing profound change. For this reason the RECORE programme has deliberately embraced Wider Europe. The Polish and Czech partners are among the lead players, alongside partners from Russia and Ukraine. RECORE has been taking place in the midst of the reform of the European Union’s regional policy, in which the issues at stake are of prime importance for the mining regions.

The European framework is being reshaped in parallel with a reshaping of Europe’s mining activity. Whereas mining was one of the very origins of the European project, the ECSC Treaty expired in 2002. Whereas the production of coal was the foundation on which the continent’s economic power was built, it has, for various reasons, undergone massive decline. Such changes have meant that the regions affected have to devise and implement conversion policies, the scope of which are unmatched in any other regions. Caught between a mining past and economic prosperity, these regions are now at a crossroads. The application of regeneration policies in these regions is indispensable to secure their sustainable development. The purpose of the present guide is to present a number of strategies and good practice, which reflect the impressive potential of these regions. Across Europe, the future of 900 local communities and 26 millions inhabitants is at stake.

On behalf of the Members of Euracom,

Bernhard Rapkay,



Euracom President and  
Member of the European Parliament

Cllr Bill Flanagan OBE,



Vice-chair, Euracom  
Chair, Coalfield Communities Campaign

# Foreword

The present guide of good practice has been produced as part of the RECORE programme, operation 1W0014N, approved and co-financed by Interreg IIIc.

This document is not a scientific thesis on the regeneration of Europe's coalfields. The purpose is to present the studies undertaken by the eight partners of the RECORE programme in a summary guide of good practice.

The general outline and objectives of the publication were set out by the programme's operational committee and its steering committee (Meetings held on 9 November 2005, 11 April and 11 May 2006). The factual information is the result of the partners' collective work:

- The first part (Inventory of coalfields) includes the reports of each partner.
- The second part (Close-up of regional development practices) includes the summaries drafted by the partners (with the exception of the sections on the environment and mining heritage). The examples of good practice are a selection of the reports presented by the partners. Where some studies are lacking, this is due to the absence of corresponding reports.
- The third part (What development policy or policies do Europe's coal-mining regions need?) is a summary of the reports presented by the partners at the last seminar.

All the reports can be consulted in full at [www.recore-programme.com](http://www.recore-programme.com)

The overall layout and formatting of the document was undertaken by the programme's secretariat with the assistance of external experts (Richard Siorak, Senior Lecturer, University of Grenoble, France. Nicolas Siorak, Lecturer, Ecole Supérieure de Commerce Wesford Grenoble, France). The external experts also drafted analyses other than those drafted by the partners. These texts are the sole responsibility of the authors. The present document is available in the languages of the programme's partners. The reference document is the French version.

Apart from the programme's partners, the RECORE studies have also involved representatives from mining communities in Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania.

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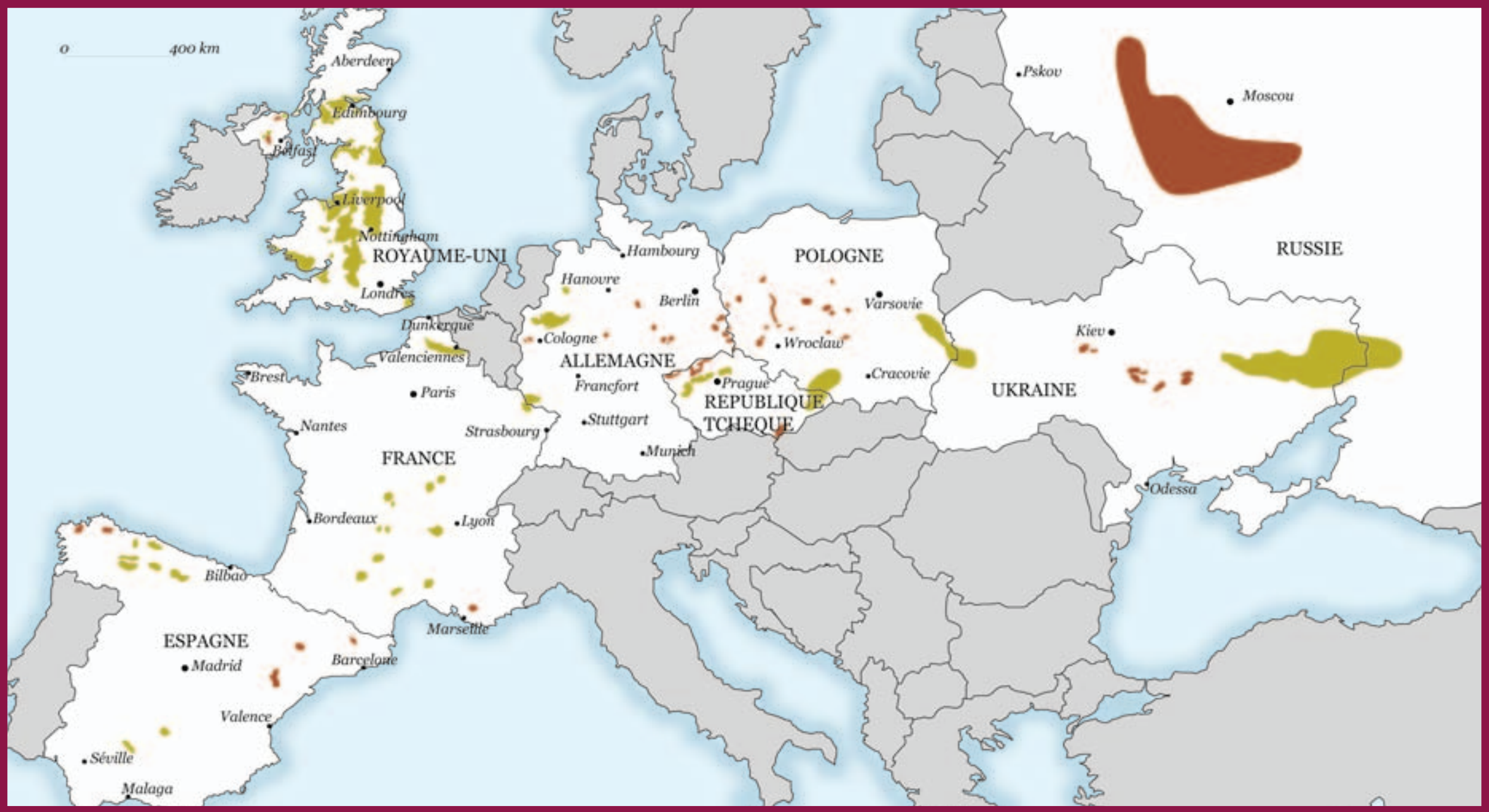


# General inventory of mining areas in Europe

Evolution of mining activity in figures / Geographic Characteristics  
Social-economic characteristics / Local authorities facing difficult restructuring

1. Czech Republic: a mining region in transition
2. Mining basins in France: a slow reconversion process
3. Mining basins in Germany: coal production on the way out
4. Mining regions in Poland: industrial reconversion in Silesia
5. Mining basins in Spain: opening up the mining regions and inducing revival
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# RECORE partners mining basins



Coal  
Lignite

Data : "Map of coal and lignite in Europe" Euracoal [www.euracoal.org](http://www.euracoal.org) / Charbonnage de France  
Done by : Université Paris 8

For each partner country, 4 key aspects are used to draw up the general inventory of mining regions in the different national contexts:

- The number of mines and their production
- The geographic location of the mining basins
- The social-economic situation in these areas
- The main difficulties faced by the local authorities in mining regions

Countries are registered by alphabetic order.

# 1. Czech Republic: a mining region in transition

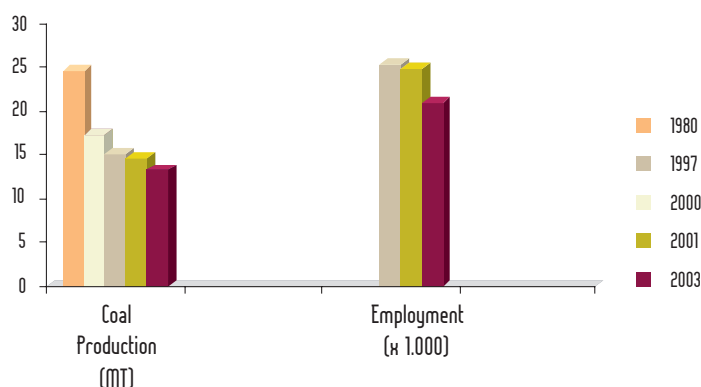
## 1.1 Evolution of mining activity in figures

5 mines are still operating in the Czech Republic. Extraction of coal reached a peak in the early 1980s with 24.7 million tonnes and then dropped to 13.3 million tonnes in 2003, a reduction cutting production roughly in half over nearly 20 years.

Table 1 : Evolution of coal extraction in the Ostrava-Havírna urban area.

	1880	1914	1945	1980	1997	2000	2001	2002	2003
Coal extraction (MT)	2,6	9,3	8,6	24,7	17,3	15,1	14,7	14,0	13,3
Base 100 in 1980	10,5	37,6	34,8	100	70	61,1	59,5	56,7	53,8

Coal production / Czech Republic



## 1.2 Geographic Characteristics

Mining activities in the Czech Republic are centred in the region of Upper Silesia, in the north-east of the country. The area concerned is that of Ostrava-Havírna, close of Poland and Slovakia.

Mining has been a tradition in this area for over 200 years; this activity has left a heavy footprint in many ways: degradation of the area and environmental constraints.

The surface area involved in mining activity is 2,200 hectares, but an area of 14,200 ha is affected by sinking due to this activity. As for the soil, 5,000 ha are classified as "seriously deteriorated" and 2,600 ha as "seriously polluted".

## 1.3 Social-economic characteristics

On the social-economic level, mining still employed 21,000 people at the end of 2003, and the average salary was higher than the national average. Nevertheless, wages at national level are increasing faster than wages in the mining sector.

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Employment</b>	25 417 miners	24 890 miners	22 826 miners	21 071 miners
<b>Base 100 in 2000</b>	100	97,9	89,8	82,9
<b>Average salary - mining industry</b>	18100	19400	20600	21400
<b>Base 100 in 2000</b>	100	107,2	113,8	118,2
<b>Average salary - Czech Republic</b>	13484	14633	15857	16917
<b>Base 100 in 2000</b>	100	108,5	117,6	125,5

As regards employment, almost 18% of the active population is unemployed in the Ostrava Havířna urban area, and this rate has increased steadily since 2000, after a sharp rise in the 1990s.

## 1.4 Local authorities facing difficult restructuring

The main problems faced by the local authorities concern the infrastructure, the environment, the renovation of assets (buildings or land) and the development of new activities.

# 2.

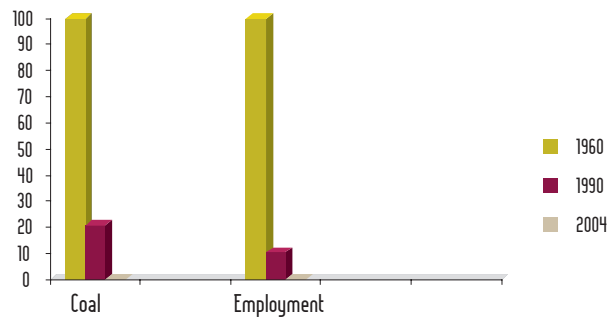
## Mining basins in France: a slow reconversion process

### 2.1 Evolution of mining activity in figures

The 21<sup>st</sup> century marked the end of a period of intense activity initiated in the 19th century; coal extraction had its heyday in the 1960s, declining irreversibly afterwards (see table below).

	1960	1990	2004
<b>Production</b>	Base 100 : 100% = 57,03 MT	21%	0%
<b>Employment</b>	Base 100 : 100% = 216 031 miners	10,4%	0%

### Coal de houille / France



## 2.2 Geographic characteristics

The coal mining industry was essentially concentrated in three areas :

- The Nord-Pas-de-Calais mining basin (50% of production), has a privileged location at the crossroads of northwest Europe.
- Lorraine (25% of production) located along the German border (a strategic axis).
- The Centre-Midi basins are small and landlocked, with the exception of the Gardanne - Marseille basin.

## 2.3 Social-economic characteristics

Demographically speaking, closing down mining activity drove people out of these regions (7% depopulation for Centre-Midi); loss of population was relatively smaller in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Lorraine regions which are more densely populated.

To give the economy new drive, the public authorities chose to implement other channels of development, based on industrial diversification and on shifting to the service sector. Unemployment levels however remain high, more than 20% in some towns (Lens, Valenciennes).

Developing activities in the service sector, one of the major concerns of the local authorities, entails upgrading the environment and revitalising the urban fibre.

# 3.

# Mining basins in Germany: coal production on the way out

## 3.1 Evolution of mining activity in figures

In the table below, the year 1960 is used as a percentage reference for all indicators.

	1960	1990	2004
Number of mines (coal)	100% =146	18,5%	6,16%
Number of miners (coal)	100% = 490 200	26,6%	8,6%
Coal production (*)	100% = 142,3 MT	50%	18%
Brown coal production	100% = 96,1 MT	370% (**)	190%

(\*) without the former Democratic Republic of Germany; (\*\*) as of 1990, including the former Democratic Republic of Germany ; MT : million tonnes

As a whole, the indicators show a decline and a progressive shutdown of the mining sector.

## 3.2 Geographic and demographic characteristics

In the course of time the extraction areas have shifted geographically. Activity has moved from the Ruhr, an urbanised region with high population density, to further north where the population is less dense. Mining deposits inside Germany are mostly scattered along the rivers.

With 70% of extracted coal, the Ruhr accounts for most of the mining population; the age pyramid indicates an aging population, with 20% over 65 years old.

## 3.3 Main social-economic characteristics

In the Ruhr area, the population spread by gender is as follows: 51.5% women and 48.5% men. 12% are foreign citizens, mostly Turks (over 40%) and slightly more than 10% of Yugoslavian origin. The table below shows the breakdown by social and occupational category of the 2.1 million people in employment (39% of the population of the Ruhr region).

Professions	Civil servants	Employees	Workers
8,6%	6,3%	52,9%	32,2%

Many of the categories are in the service sector. The rate of unemployment is high (~13%), above the national average (~12%).

## 3.4 Local authorities in the Ruhr and the challenge of restructuring

Because of the poor competitive position of the mining industry, the coal mines have gradually closed. For several decades, this monolithic industry was dominant. Even today, this situation still makes restructuring difficult. Converting employment to expanding technologies is one of the issues that needs to be addressed. Subsidies from the European Union and local authorities are geared towards this reconversion logic. The positive aspect resulting from the closure of the mines is the decrease in pollution. Some sites that cannot be reused by other industries are being reconverted into museums or destined for other cultural activities.

# 4.

## Mining regions in Poland: industrial reconversion in Silesia

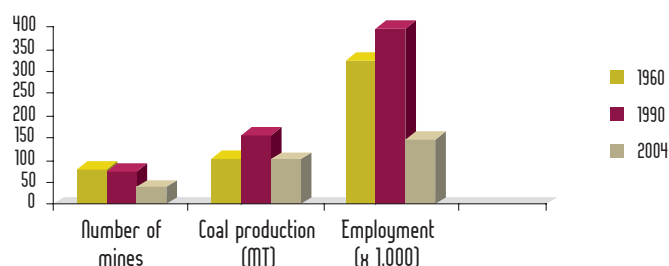
### 4.1 Evolution of the mining activities in figures

In the table below, the year 1960 is taken as the percentage reference for all indicators.

	1960	1990	2003
Coal: number of mines	100% = 80	94%	50%
Coal: employment	100% = 323 500	123%	45,1%
Coal: production	100% = 104,4 Mt	149%	97%
Brown Coal: number of mines	100% = 7	57%	57%
Brown Coal: employment	100% = 5 600	491%	375%
Brown Coal: production	100% = 9,3 Mt	725%	625%

NB : Mt = Million tonnes

#### Characteristics of coal production / Pologne



## 4.2 Geographic and demographic characteristics

Although it is spread over four regions (voivodies), most of coal extraction is located in Silesia (55 municipalities representing 91% of Polish production). Silesia is situated in the south of the country and represents only 4% of the area of Poland; however, 12.7% of the population lives in that region: with 400 inhabitants per square kilometre, it is the most densely populated area in the country (Polish average: 123).

## 4.3 Silesia: a dynamic region and population

13% of Polish enterprises, all sectors included, are located in this voivody, employing over 20% of Polish population, representing more than 3 million people. 18% of the population is unemployed (the figure is 19% for Poland). Migration and natural negative population growth indicate a problematic demographic situation.

The region takes second place in terms of the number of students attending higher education; 40% of the population works in industry and almost half (46%) in the service sector. The shift to the service sector and the privatisation of enterprises indicate a restructuring economy seeking efficiency and an improved competitive position. As for foreign investments, the region comes in second place, after Mazowieckie (Warsaw region); this influx of investment contributes to developing the automobile sector and high-technology, dissipating an image of Silesia dedicated exclusively to coal. Diversification of activities contributes to restructuring the mining sector.

Urban renewal is progressing along the following lines: less pollution, museums dedicated to mining, reshaping housing in mining areas, cultural entities...

Finally, the Mining Agency co-ordinates the reconversion of the ex-miners.

# 5. Mining basins in Spain: opening up the mining regions and inducing revival

## 5.1 Evolution of mining activity in figures

	1960	1990	2004
<b>Number of mines</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>64</b>
Base 100 in 1960	100	20,7	12,2
<b>Coal production (MT)</b>	<b>15,6</b>	<b>42,6</b>	<b>20,56</b>
Base 100 in 1960	100	273,1	131,8
<b>The number of miners</b>	<b>89 600</b>	<b>45 200</b>	<b>13 900</b>
Base 100 in 1960	100	50,4	15,5

### Characteristics of coal production / Spain



### 5.3 Social-economic characteristics

Most of these regions now have a lower growth rate than the rest of the country. Average gross domestic product per inhabitant is lower than the national average and the unemployment rates are among the highest in the country. Infrastructure in the mining regions is also generally unsuitable and obsolete.

## 5.4 Local authorities and their struggle to reconvert

The main difficulty is related to the abandon of mining activities and the resulting exodus of population. In addition, the geographic location of these territories, which have no easy access, make the needed investments more expensive; there is some influx of capital from local entrepreneurs but it remains low.



## 6.

# Mining regions in the Federation of Russia: restructuring and privatisation of a powerful industry

## 6.1 Evolution of mining activity in Russia

Russia is the fifth world producer of coal, after China, the USA, India and Australia. 5% of world's coal is extracted in Russia, for an annual production of 270 million tonnes. What is more, Russia possesses over 11% of world coal reserves, with 200,000 million tonnes.

As for international trade, 20% of coal production (more than 15 million tonnes) is exported annually. Imports, generally from Kazakhstan, represented 20 million tonnes in 2002.

In Russia, restructuring and privatisation of the sector continue, generating frequent closures. From 1994 to 2004, 187 mines have closed, reducing the number of people employed in the mining sector by a factor of three.

## 6.2 Geographic characteristics of mining production in Russia

Coal is used in all of the 89 regions in Russia, and 24 of these regions produce coal. Restructuring of coal mining in Russia mainly concerns the coal basin of Donbass, belonging to both Ukraine and Russia. Deposits there are being depleted and many mines have closed already.

Siberia accounts for 80% of coal reserves of the country.

## 6.3 Main social-economic characteristics of the mining regions

Restructuring of coal production in Russia has generated a sharp fall in employment, notably because productivity is too low, but also due to a lack of skills. **Since 1994, the number of workers in this sector dropped by 70% from 860 000 to 250 000.**

In the towns hit by mine closures, there is great need need for retraining the workforce of ex-miners , while seeking new activities is vital to fight pauperization of some regions.

## 6.4 Local authorities faced with the difficulties of reconversion

The main difficulties the local authorities have to cope with are:

- the need for training and readjustment of the workforce
- creation of new activities
- follow-up of privatisations so as to limit social and environmental costs

## 7.

# Mining basins in Ukraine: a mining sector fully restructuring

## 7.1 Evolution of mining activity

Coal represents 95.4% of fossil energy reserves in Ukraine. Restructuring in the sector has led to a sharp decrease in production, with extraction dropping from 136 million tonnes in 1991 to 82 million in 2002. Annual production capacity simultaneously dropped by 94 million tonnes.

Decline in mining activity in Ukraine derives, among other things, from a massive reduction in state subsidies for production and losses in productivity in the sector. In general, restructuring of the industrial sector demonstrates the need to liquidate a large number of enterprises and to reorganise productive activities. The mining sector in particular illustrates this, with massive closures or lengthy, onerous restructuring.

## 7.2 Geographic characteristics

The regions involved in production of coal are located mainly in the north of the country in the DONETSK and LUGANSK regions. These regions are adjacent to the Polish regions of Silesia and Moravia across the border.

## 7.3 Social-economic characteristics

In Ukraine, the impact of the decline in mining activities is particularly visible. Indeed, as a result of the closure of mines, the cost of financing the closures and the effects on correlated activities, small towns that used to be peaceful are becoming slums, centres of poverty and social tension.

Unemployment and poverty particularly strike those villages and towns which live on coal mining. Employment of the active population is only 47%, contrasting with an average of 68% for the large Ukrainian cities and 73% for Kiev.

Furthermore, only 38% of the population in the mining towns considers the salary to be the only source of income, as against 57% for the other Ukrainian towns. 66% of the population believes that social benefits are the main source of income (against 50% of the population in other towns); this again illustrates how poverty has struck the mining towns.

## 7.4 Local authorities faced with the difficulties of reconversion

Several factors make reconversion of mining activities a major challenge for the local authorities involved: the lack of financial support, lack of preparation and planning of the restructuring, or the flimsiness of the economic fibre.

## 8.

# The United-Kingdom: managing the mining heritage

## 8.1 Evolution of mining activity in figures

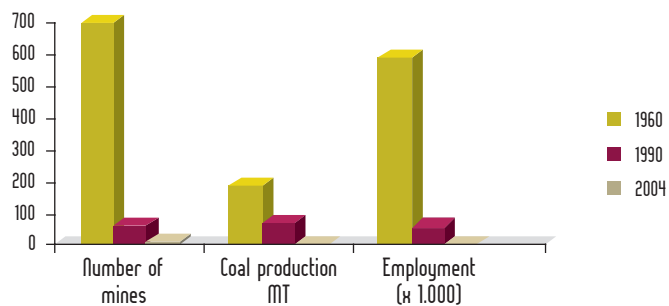
In the following table, the year 1960 is taken as percentage reference.

INDICATORS	1960	1990	2004
Number of mines	100% = 698	9,3%	~ 2%
Employment	100% = 588 800 mineurs	9,74%	~ 1%
Production	100%=186,8*106 tonnes	38%	~ 8,7%

Mining activities started very early (in the Middle Ages, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century), peaked during the World War I; and are now facing strong decline. Present-day production also takes place in open sites (mines which are not included in the table above): 13 million tonnes, 45 sites employing 2000 people.

Imports supply over two thirds of the UK market; one third of the electricity produced in the country originates from coal, 40% from natural gas and over 20% from nuclear power stations.

### Characteristics of British coal production



## 8.2 Geographic characteristics: location of mines

Coal mining activity takes place around some cities, near to smaller towns and in rural villages.

For the regions concerned, this was the only industry of importance; which makes them highly dependent on this activity, for employment for example.

## 8.3 Local authorities facing the demise of mining

The main concern of the local authorities belonging to the Coalfield Communities Campaign (CCC, created in 1985) is to redevelop and revitalise the social-economic structures and the environment of mining towns.

The objectives of the CCC can be summarised as follows: fighting unemployment by diversifying and training former miners to new jobs, implementing a strategy of sustainable development, renovating the deteriorated housing infrastructure... etc.

# PART 2

## Interregional and thematic focus on practices for developing coalfield regions in Europe

Interregional and European approach / Similarities and differences  
Conclusions and main recommendations / Examples of good practices

1. Infrastructure improvements in coalfields
2. Environment remediation in coalfields
3. Mining heritage - leisure and tourism
4. Foreign investments in coalfields
5. Support to S.M.E / S.M.I in coalfields
6. Training in coalfields

*For the social-economic development of many regions of Europe, mining still is a major issue, and restructuring the sector poses the crucial question of how to reconvert the mining regions.*

*The RECORE programme focused its deliberations on six themes that highlight the various aspects of reversion policies. These were presented in a series of seminars conducted in mining basins in the partner countries. The work is backed by both general reports and case studies.*

# 1. Infrastructure improvements in coalfields

The first seminar of the RECORE programme took place in Barnsley in the South Yorkshire region of the UK. The seminar session consisted of national reports giving an overview of the situation in the context of the theme - infrastructure improvements.

## 1.1 Interregional and European approaches

Speakers from each of the national delegations stressed the importance of infrastructure improvements for the economic developments of coal mining areas. Infrastructure covered a wide range of physical features including road and rail links, water and power supplies, available land for industrial development, factory units etc. It also included the availability of electronic networks to assist communication and local production.

Most coal mining areas in Europe had developed over a particular historical period in which the transport infrastructure prioritised the movement of coal and other heavy industrial materials. For many regions the **transport network was outmoded and a great deal of investment was needed to modernise the networks**. For some regions, such as in the UK, the need was for road and rail improvements at the sub-regional level to link up with the main national and international road and rail network.

There was a general agreement that a sound, **modern infrastructure provided the foundation blocks for economic and social renewal**. Without these basic features of physical regeneration economic development could not take place.

It was also recognised that although local government had a key role in renewing the infrastructure, the costs were very high. **Such long-term investment in regional economies requires assistance from central government as well the EU**. Without assistance local government could not finance such large and important projects,

## 1.2 Regional approaches: similarities and differences

### Similarities...

Despite differences in geographic environment and the stage of reversion, the European mining basins **have many characteristics and issues in common**:

1. **Inadequate infrastructures** are the most important problem facing the mining regions and communities. The high cost of bringing them up to date justifies setting up schemes for national and international subsidies.
2. Dependency on the mining industry resulted in **limited development of other economic sectors**. Furthermore, the **assets** of this industry (buildings, transport amenities, equipment) are quite often **very specific and hard to reuse without transformation**. Finally, mining fields cannot immediately be reclaimed for other uses. And their reversion is closely linked to reinforcing the infrastructures.

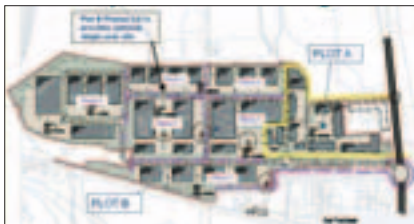
find differences...

The main differences evident from the case studies related to three broad issues – 1) geography; 2) stages of development (history); 3) national, regional and local governance, legal and financial structures

## 1.3 Conclusions and recommendations

- ♦ **Infrastructure improvements are the foundation for regeneration of the former coalmining areas of Europe and beyond.** The process of regeneration requires a modern infrastructure within a cleaned up environment. Inward investment, new jobs and social and economic renewal are founded on the basic renewal of the physical features of coalfield areas.
- ♦ **Large-scale modernisation of infrastructure is very costly** and is a long-term investment that the private sector is unlikely to fund. Local and regional government are key players in this process, but cannot be expected to find all the funding. The basic physical renewal of coal areas therefore requires intervention and financial assistance from national, international governments and other organisations.
- ♦ **Differences at national regional and local level** with regard to government structures, financial and legal frameworks need to be taken into account when considering the most effective methods of providing funding.

## 1.4 Examples of good practices



### The industrial area of Frantisek (Czech Republic) - Reconversion of an old mining site

The rehabilitation of the old Frantisek mine (25 hectares, with 43,000 m<sup>2</sup> of buildings) aims at creating an industrial park. While this project includes the demolition of a large number of older buildings, bringing the infrastructure up to date was considered the main focus. Roads, various networks and the grounds themselves have been improved. Changing the image of the site was the first positive consequence.

Contact: Mr Ceslav VALOSEK, director of ACOM, Czech Republic

### Onnaing site (France) - Supplying infrastructures adapted to the needs of major international investor

The municipality of Onnaing, with the backing of the Nord Pas-de-Calais Regional Council, realised that internationalisation is an important asset for the development of the region and consequently adapted its «local supply». To convert and prepare the area for international investors, it endorsed a voluntarist public policy of renovation, adapting infrastructures to suit and support new activities. The establishment of the Toyota factory is a demonstration of its success.

Contact: Mr. Daniel GHOUZI, Doctor in geography and expert with NFF

For further information: [www.valenciennes-metropole.fr/article35.html](http://www.valenciennes-metropole.fr/article35.html)



### The Dortmund project (Germany) - A partnership to speed up restructuring

The Dortmund project is a partnership between private and public interests that includes the municipality of Dortmund, as well as economic and scientific stakeholders. The partnership accelerated restructuring the area to prepare it to welcome investors. The simultaneous prospection of international investors was further motivation for restructuring the old mining sites.

Contact: Mr. Thorsten HUELSMANN, in charge of the project with the municipality of DORTMUND

For further information: [www.dortmund.de](http://www.dortmund.de)



Even today, coal extraction techniques are not efficient enough to compensate for the many negative consequences: sinking of terrain due to mining, mining slag heaps, production of waste and “by-products” (gangue, coal lava residues, scoria, slurry), air pollution with waste gas making the air hard to breathe particularly for people with respiratory disorders (Rybník in Silesia is an unfortunate illustration), threat to biodiversity, noise pollution, contamination of water making it unfit to drink (toxic effluent waste in the ground water) etc. All these consequences of mining heighten awareness of the need for sustainable development.

Furthermore, economic consequences top up this list of environmental consequences. Abandoning mining activities not only produces industrial wastelands, it disrupts social fabric (unemployment and exclusion, breakdown of social bonds).

Clearly, the successful renovation of old mining sites is a prerequisite for improving the environment in mining basins. The issues raised in the questionnaire and the answers produced at the seminar underlined this assessment and highlighted the know-how present in each of the countries.

In broad terms, the methodology adopted in each of the countries considers the same issues: cleanup, rehabilitation of the sites, surveillance of safety and the environment on the sites considering the dangers linked to gases (methane), management of hydraulic problems (pollution of mine water and consequences for ground water), stability of the ground (expertise in the geology of subsoils and sinking), expertise in the adaptation of urban and rural land use.

## 2.2 Conclusions and main recommendations

- Planned management of water resources as well as urban planning and mapping of mining risks, all appeared to be decisive for sustainable development. Long-term planning is required to guarantee successful environmental rehabilitation.
- Where coal is still being mined (the CEEC in particular) it is fundamental to produce it in a different way. Integrating industrial activity in a strategy for sustainable development cannot be avoided. This implies setting up monitoring systems and providing an efficient legal framework. Standards must also be defined for assessing pollution.
- Improvement of the environment must be supported by European funds to be used in compliance with the objectives defined. These are the conditions under which the rehabilitated areas can attract investors. The economic and social environment will also be revitalised.

## 2.3 Examples of good practices

### ORLOVA Park (Czech Republic) - nature reclaiming its rights

The ORLOVA Park (Castle Park) is located at the fringe of a mining zone. When the coal mines were operating, damage was caused in many ways. Regeneration of the park aims at dissipating the image of a destroyed forest. Financing comes from two sources: the mining company and the municipality of ORLOVA. Reconstruction of the vegetation is one of the priorities. This includes preservation of flora and of native forest species. To renovate the park, which also includes the ORLOVA castle and neo-Gothic monuments, the project includes participation of designers, landscape designers, town planners,... the synergy developed contributes to the success of the renovation.

**Contact: Mr. Radim TABASEH, Expert**

**For further information: [www.mesto-orlova.cz](http://www.mesto-orlova.cz)**







### Mining law helping the environment: example of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region (France)

After two centuries of intensive coal mining, this region is still marked today by its industrial history: alteration of the subsoil and ground water, polluted sites, subsiding terrains. In 1997, the Association of mining towns brought the issue to the authorities and the Charbonnages de France (CDF) and went to court. Under mining law, the owners of the concessions are must take action: they have a legal obligation to manage the risks and environmental consequences of stopping mining activities.

**Contact:** Ms Typhaine BELLART, Delegate General of ACM Nord-Pas-de-Calais (Association of mining towns)

### The rebirth of Silesia (Poland) - the example of the Anna mine

The largest coal deposits in the country are found in Silesia. The industrial district of Rybnik is heavily marked by this industry, still active in the region. The landscape is distorted by wastelands, slag heaps, scurries and floods. The air is hardly breathable. Today, the site is being transformed into a leisure centre and a centre for various other activities (ANNA mine in Pszow), proving determination to change. The area being transformed stretches over 50 ha and contains an amphitheatre (seating 550) and sports infrastructure (cyclocross track, volleyball and tennis fields,...)

Another example is the programme for closing the 1st of May mine in Wodzislaw Slaski. The site is dangerous because of emanations of methane gas and appropriate technical solutions had to be put in place to recover the gas.

**Contact:** Mr Hazimierz CICHY, Expert

**For further information:** [www.pszow.pl](http://www.pszow.pl)



### Russia - Methods for preserving the ecological assets

In this country, large-scale closure of mines started in 1994 and has triggered an unprecedented crisis. Consequences were both economic and ecological. Today, the environment shows all the signs of deteriorated ecosystem: quality of life altered, uncontrolled methane gas emissions, polluted rivers and springs, polluted drinking water... To tackle these issues, monitoring systems were put in place with an eye for economic good sense. These monitoring centres in the eastern Donets basin in the Ural Mountains, (more specifically the Kizel mining basin), aim at preserving the ecological assets.

**Contact:** Mr Alexander CHERNI, director of ACOM Russia

**For further information:** [www.kizel.ru](http://www.kizel.ru)

### Rehabilitation of the Nalon River (Spain) - a clean river

This river flows through the central and western parts of the Asturias region. It empties in the Cantabrian Sea. Set up along the basin of this river, the largest Asturian mines dump their waste ground water (from washing the coal, waste water from underground galleries) in the river. The water, which was polluted until recently, is now undergoing special treatment (pumping, cleanup, decontamination) to become clean and is being well-stocked with fish. Trout and salmon fishing are good examples of a new leisure activity that attracts tourists. Restoring the quality of this river is part of a sustainable development logic.

**Contact :** Mr Antonio SUAREZ



### After Warsop Vale (United-Kingdom) - an example of renovation of the urban environment

How can the decline be curbed? This was the main issue when the Warsop Vale mine in Nottingham County closed in 1989 with the loss of 850 jobs. The negative economic growth and social disruption was compounded by significant damage to the environment. To attract investors, the road infrastructure was renovated: improving the lighting, drainage systems and an urban development plan. To combat the failure of private companies acquiring a majority of the housing, the urban fabric was regenerated by pulling down or renovating the old houses.

**Contact:** Mr. Ray DUNAJHO, Expert Nottinghamshire County Council

**For further information:** [www.warsopvale.org](http://www.warsopvale.org)



## 3. Mining heritage - leisure and tourism

### 3.1 General approach

The seminar that ACOM France organised at the historical mining centre of Lewarde ([www.chm-lewarde.com](http://www.chm-lewarde.com), Nord-Pas-de-Calais region) dealt with the question of how to develop the mining heritage. **This heritage has an important role in the enhancing leisure and tourism for mining regions.** Rather than viewing these legacies as a burden or a relic, they can become the new cultural assets today. They constitute a resource with high added value in terms of sustainable social-economic development for the regions concerned. At the Lewarde seminar, about 20 cases have showed the cultural, historical, social and economic interest of this issue.

The focus of the seminar was anticipating and identifying the sites to be kept (slag heaps, entries to old pits, craters, minehead frames...), which is becoming an urgent question. The interests at stake in the policies chosen in this field are clear. **Developing this mining heritage is a driver for local development.**

### 3.2 Conclusions and main recommendations

- **The potential for developing mining heritage is multi-faceted.** In addition to historical and social aspects, the extensive land reserves can trigger growth once they have been rehabilitated. Museums, historical centres, leisure parks and cultural activities or service activities can take place on the old sites.
- The choice of location and timing for this development is fundamental. **Long-term thinking** is important to take full advantage of this mining legacy. The economic logic underlying any development process must take this time factor into account. Furthermore, the approach can only be constructive if it combines the local and territorial contexts (municipalities, basin, country,...). As it opens mining areas to the world, it will provide synergies that will shape renovation as part of the urban and landscape framework.
- Action is urgent: many elements of this heritage are endangered or already disappearing.

### 3.3 Examples of good practices

#### The Landek Museum (Czech Republic)

In the Czech Republic, the largest coal mining museum is located on Landek hill. The area, which had been the main centre since the 18th century (1782), has been classified as a national nature park since 1992. In 1999, the renovation initiative won the Henry Ford prize, in recognition of the revitalisation of deteriorated areas, respect for the environment and cultural heritage. The site contains a number of curiosities, like the Landek Venus (a woman's torso 46mm large cut out in stone) and attracts many tourists.

Contact: Mr Ceslav VALOSEK, director of ACOM Czech Republic

For further information: [www.muzeumokd.cz/index\\_en.php](http://www.muzeumokd.cz/index_en.php)





#### The Cap'Découverte operation (France) - Leisure activities in an opencast mine

The Cap'Découverte operation consisted of transforming an old coal mine in the Albi Carmaux (Tarn) basin into a multi-leisure centre. The mine that covered 650 ha closed in 1997; since 2003 the area has come back to life. It is a unique place in Europe, with a spectacular amphitheatre of 1300 m in diameter and 230 m deep. It offers board sports (roller skates, snowboard), shows, and a mining museum including an underground tour of reconstructed galleries.

Contact: Mr Michel MAZEL, Vice President of ACOM France

For further information: [www.capdecouverte.com](http://www.capdecouverte.com)

#### The showcase operation at IBA-Emscher Park (Germany)

In itself, the IBA International exhibition on building and urban development of the Emscher Park is a model of economic, ecological and industrial reconversion. This huge sustainable development project for the reconversion of the Emscher Valley in the Ruhr region started in 1989. The site stretches over 100 km along the Emscher River. It covers 500 square kilometres and has 2 million inhabitants. One example is the remarkable Academy of the Ministry of the Interior established on the Mont Cenis pit head in Herne.

Contact: Ms Sabina VON DER BERCH, member of the Recklinhausen district

For further information: [www.iba.nrw.de](http://www.iba.nrw.de)



#### The mine of Bochnia (Poland) - an underground cathedral

The mining area of Bochnia (southern Poland), has been the site of rocksalt mining ever since the 13th century. This site, recognized as a World Heritage site by UNESCO, is partially accessible to the public, with or without a guide, either on foot or using an adapted underground railway. Works of art and altars sculpted in the salt are presented in many galleries stretching over 300 km at 9 levels. An area located 250 m underground has been converted into a playground, offering facilities for activities like volleyball and basketball.

Contact: Mr. Hajetan BEREZOWSKI, Expert

For further information: [www.bochnia.pl](http://www.bochnia.pl)

#### Spain - A strong museum tradition

The museums on the Escucha mine in Teruel, and the Puertollano mine Ciudad Real, show typical examples of towns with a long mining tradition. Emblematic of a mining past, they contribute to reclaiming old buildings and participate in regenerating deteriorated environments.

Contact: Mr. Vicente GUTIERREZ, engineer at SADIM; Mr Luis Fernando MARIN, Mayor of ESCUCHA

For further information: [www.puertollanovirtual.com/cultura/museo\\_mineria.htm](http://www.puertollanovirtual.com/cultura/museo_mineria.htm) et [www.mumiescucha.com](http://www.mumiescucha.com)



#### The Kemerovo region (Russia) - leisure tourism contribute to renewal

In Kemerovo region, the Mezhdurechensk tourism and sports complex attracts 3500 visitors every year. Leisure made available there revitalises the area that has been declining ever since the shutdown of the mines. In the same vein, a second tourist centre in Polysaevo offers opportunities for board sports.

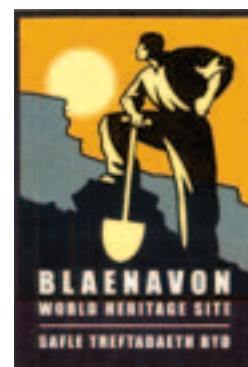
Contact: Mr Valery GRUN, Assistant Manager of ACOM Russia

#### The mining town of Blaenavon (United-Kingdom) recognized by UNESCO

A true witness of the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, the mining town of Blaenavon is actively rehabilitating its environment. Blaenavon, located in South Wales, has been recognized as world heritage by UNESCO since 2000. The town plans to build its future on its mining heritage. Tourism is the catalyst for the many actions undertaken. The National Museum of Wales was established in Big Pit, a pit dating from 1880 and closed down in 1990. It attracts 110,000 visitors every year. Visitors discover what everyday life was like for the miners as they walk through the underground galleries.

Contact: Mr John ROGER, member of the district of TORFEAN

For further information: [www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk](http://www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk); [www.blaenavon.gov.uk](http://www.blaenavon.gov.uk)



## 4.

# Foreign investments in coalfields

## 4.1 Interregional and European approaches

The papers submitted considered that the issues of foreign investment are consistent and obvious. A distinction must be made between two situations:

- In those regions where the mining industry is still active, foreign investment has contributed towards **diversifying the economy** and thereby offsetting some of the negative socio-economic impact of future closures.
- In those regions where the mine is in the process of closing down or has already been shut, foreign investment contributes towards the **social and economic regeneration** of the affected region.

In both cases, the **number of jobs created** is significant (in the ASTURIAS coalfield, for example, the number of jobs created as a result of foreign investment is estimated at 21,000). This investment has also improved the economic fabric thanks to the introduction of new industries and **new technology**.

**Contrary to expectation, many mining regions have managed to attract foreign investment.** Mining regions are very often perceived as rather unattractive as mining activity does have a detrimental effect on the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, the mine closure can bring with it a range of socio-economic problems. However, **this negative image** can be ameliorated. The reports presented show that many foreign investors prefer to develop their projects in the large metropolitan areas of Europe. However, there are also a significant number of projects that have developed in the coalfields. These investors originate from both European Union countries and non-member countries (Asia and the USA). The capacity of the mining regions to welcome foreign investors is one of the **major lessons** that can be learnt from this seminar.

## 4.2 Conclusions and main recommendations

The papers presented at the OVIEDO seminar highlighted that there are **three main factors governing foreign investment**:

### ✦ The territorial factor

The first factor that favours foreign investment is the territorial factor. Several elements appear to be determinant. However, they are neither exclusive nor imperative. Many of the mining regions have these advantages, to which foreign investors are sensitive:

- **The geographic situation and the transport infrastructures** : in this respect, the coalfields reveal shortcomings. However, policies for improved road and rail access are being planned or are currently being implemented in most coalfields.
- **Lands to host new activities.** In general, land availability is good, whether completely new sites or former colliery sites that have been remediated. For example, in REICASTRO in ASTURIAS, a Belgian company specialising in the manufacture of special glass (RIOGLASS) established itself on the site of an former colliery (see study case). Generally land is cheap. Nevertheless, the sites have to be fully serviced in terms of infrastructure as a prerequisite to attracting investment.
- The existence of a **local development strategy**. The concepts of a competitiveness nucleus, the development of distribution channels or clusters are strategies that have been developed to promote foreign investment, both for SMEs and large enterprises.

#### ✦ The human factor

Foreign investment also benefits from the human resources available in the coalfields. In general, these regions have a high population density and consequently a large labour force. More specifically, it seems that the development of inward investment also relies on:

- Close ties between the **university environment and training**. In this regard, the establishment of new sites often increases training opportunities.
- A **tailor-made welcome for investors** : the use of the “single point of contact”, whose job it is to coordinate the various agencies involved, meets the needs of investors and has shown positive results.

#### ✦ The financial factor

The third factor that was identified was the financial incentives to encourage **foreign investment**. The group of speakers highlighted the importance of national and European aid, which most of the coalfields benefit from. These types of aid were introduced because of the social and economic difficulties encountered in former mining regions. Their aim was to accelerate the development of these regions which had lagged behind in comparison to other more prosperous regions. Above all they contribute to social and physical development.

Finally, the risk of “**grant hunters**” was highlighted and criticised. The risks related to this practice are contrary to long-lasting development. Some investors are attracted by the financial aid attached to a particular location, but once the honeymoon period is over, they move on. To avoid this type of behaviour, there is a need to carefully select investors that are best suited to a region.

**In conclusion**, there is a need to optimise territorial, **human and financial factors in the coalfields to best attract inward investment**. Policies encouraging inward investment need to be included in the local development policies. In this respect, it is vital to create a good relationship between local companies and foreign companies. The major concern is to anchor new investors locally in order to avoid them relocating later.

## 4.3 Examples of good practice



#### The example of the industrial area of Harvina ~ NOVE POLE ~ (Czech Republic)

The rehabilitation plan drawn up in 1996 by public authorities and private partners has turned the industrial area of Harvina into one of the most attractive in the country. Three plants constructed by the municipality of Harvina triggered the shift. Both Shimano and Molnlycke Health Care have settled there, which has attracted new investors. After completion, this reconversion has created 2000 direct jobs. It also facilitated the transfer of new technologies. This success has greatly improved the reputation of the region.

Contact : Mr. Ceslav VALOSEK, ACOM director in the Czech Republic

For further information: [www.harvina.org](http://www.harvina.org)

#### Example of the industrial area of Hambach (France)

Thanks to the prospection efforts made in Germany by the Cell for industrialisation of the Lorraine coal mining basin, together with other public stakeholders, the BEHR factory set up Hambach site in 1993. Today, after extending the factory twice, BEHR employs 800 people. The attraction of Hambach was due to the plots that were made available and ready for use, the quality of the workforce and the involvement of public authorities at all levels.

Contact: Mr Bernard GIOVANNINI, Expert

For further information: [www.hambach.fr](http://www.hambach.fr)





#### From mining to solar energy - The example of Gelsenkirchen (Germany)

Through cooperation of public and private sectors and a combination of skills, the town of Gelsenkirchen very successfully reconverted to a new specialty: solar energy. An international enterprise in solar cells has settled there, creating 300 direct new jobs and generating € 70 million of investment.

Contact : Mr Andreas PIWEK, Expert  
For further information: [www.wipage.de](http://www.wipage.de)

#### The Warszowice Centre (Poland) - rapid intervention as the key to success

The Warszowice site, an old mining basin in Katowice, stretches over 40 ha. It is an example of restructuring and reconversion to another sector. The rapid reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure by the municipalities involved facilitated the interest of investors. Since 1998, € 13 million have been invested. 1,100 jobs have been created and have contributed to improving the local economy.

Contact : Mr Piotr WOJACEK, President of the special economic zone of KATOWICE



#### Rioglass is booming in Asturias (Spain)

The Rioglass group banked on the "industrial mentality" of the region and on partnerships with trade unions and public organisations. It successfully transformed an old damaged mining area into a modern industrial park (industrial glass production).

Contact : Mr. Jose Maria VILLANUEVA, President of RIOGLASS



#### The abrasive powder manufacturing in Urevo (Russia) - an example of economic diversification

The creation of an abrasive powder manufacturing plant in Urevo, in the Tula area, in the year 2000, immediately created 70 new jobs. Thanks to the involvement of the local authorities and the quality of its production, grants were given to the company for further expansion. A large proportion of the 160 workers employed there now are former miners.



#### The mining region of South Wales - the impact of foreign investments on local development

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, economic activity in South Wales was dominated by the production of coal and steel. Ever since the 1970s, foreign investments, among others Japanese, have facilitated reconversion of a large number of workers to electronic industries. The concentration of these enterprises in the region is testimony to the advantages of economies of scale, and also to the role of the local authorities and infrastructures in attracting foreign investment.

Contact : Ms Victoria PHILLIPS, Expert  
For further information: [www.swan.ac.uk/swcc](http://www.swan.ac.uk/swcc)

## 5. Support to S.M.E / S.M.I in coalfields

### 5.1 Interregional and European approach

the topic of the development of SME was the focus of the 5th seminar of the programme. This seminar, organised by ACOM POLAND was held in TYCHY in the Upper Silesian Coalfield (POLAND). The reports presented on this occasion made it possible to highlight the particular concerns of the development of SME in the coalfields. The presentation of specific cases also made it possible to identify numerous examples of good practices.

### **A quantitative and qualitative deficit**

Beyond the differences of each country, the reports presented brought to the fore the particular situation of the coalfields in relation to SMEs. In fact, the statistics show that the mining regions reveal a deficit of small and medium-sized enterprises. The rate of the creation of SME in the coalfields is very much lower than the national averages.

**Two main reasons** were put forward to explain this situation. The first reason is of a social and cultural nature. In fact, the business spirit appears to be less developed in the coalfields, where the freedom of entrepreneurship is not exactly a quality that was encouraged by the mining industry. The second reason is the form of development of the mining industry, which is developed according to the mono-industry model as it limits the development of all other activities.

### **SME, the keystone of economic diversification**

The concerns regarding the creation of SMEs in the mining regions were therefore unanimously underlined by all of the delegations. Irrespective of the geographical location of the regions involved (East or West), the socio-economic situation of the former or current coalfields remains precarious. As a consequence, the reinforcement of the SME fabric is a keystone of the economic diversification of these regions. It is a vital element to ensure their sustained development. Furthermore, it also seems that the development of SMEs is a recurring issue. In fact, irrespective of the degree of restructuring of the mining activity (mines already closed down or undergoing a restructuring process), the issue remains of central importance

### **Private and public initiatives**

The national, regional and local public authorities have carried out several initiatives to correct the deficit of SMEs in the coalfields. Specific actions were also put in place not only in favour of sponsors but also in favour of existing companies to promote such developments (See conclusions and recommendations).

## **5.2 Conclusions and main recommendations**

In order to highlight the socio-economic concerns linked to the development of SMEs, the public authorities have put in place several mechanisms through the bids of private organisations (notably banks and chambers of commerce).

Besides financial incentives (aids to investment, participation in the capital, subsidised rate loans, fiscal incentives, etc.), there are three practices that deserve to be mentioned :

- **The follow-up of sponsors by specialised organisations** : In order to support sponsors' initiatives, the public authorities have promoted the setting up of bodies specialised in the development of SMEs. These bodies carry out missions of "engineering in enterprise creation"; they provide advice in the legal, strategic and management fields. In this respect, the "single front office" or "one-stop-shop mechanism" has been recognised as an example of good practice.
- **The physical hosting of new activities** is a vital element in the promotion of the implementation of SME. Public authorities can play a determining role in this field, particularly through the promotion of the management of areas of activity adapted to the needs of companies (notably Desserte). They can also become involved in the construction of premises (building complexes or company incubators, for example). In this respect, the risk taken by the public authorities was underlined. These investments can, in fact, involve significant risk should the companies go bankrupt.
- **The improvement of the level of skills of the labour force, of both men and women**, was also highlighted as a vital factor for attracting new SMEs to the coalfields. This need justifies the putting in place of appropriate training programmes. (The issue regarding continuing vocational training will be further taken up in the last RECORE seminar to be held in GELSENKIRCHEN, in Germany).

Finally, priority should be given to the **promotion of the emergence of development channels**. It appears that the prosperity of small and medium-sized enterprises is closely related to the local economic environment and the setting up of synergies. Also, the notion of development channel or development cluster appears to be the type of development model to be promoted.

#### Supporting the SME : limits and paradox

The limits to the support given to SME have given rise to a long debate among the different experts. The aid mechanism does in fact bring to light **a paradox**; this aid, be it material or financial, was recognised as necessary to improve the economic fabric of the coalfields. Nevertheless, this mechanism may have **negative effects**. The slowness of administrative procedures was identified as an obstacle to the dynamism of sponsors. Furthermore, attacks to the **principles of free competition** that could generate this aid were also discussed. In this respect, it was concluded that this principle was not infringed within the very heart of the regions that received the aid since all the enterprises are on an equal footing and have access to the aid. As regards the **inequalities among regions** that generate the aid system, it was recalled that this mechanism is justified precisely by **reducing the difference in development between the wealthy regions and the less wealthy ones**, and this in a concept of socio-economic cohesion.

## 5.3 Examples of good practices



#### The ROSH Company (Czech Republic): Determination for successful diversification

The ROSH company, a family business set up in Orlová, is a success story of a company in a region suffering from the decline of mining activities. In 15 years, this company which initially worked in the textile sector, managed to diversify its activities (field of hospital services, consulting...). The result has been continual growth in turnover and the number of employees (staff of 60). Its clients today include major international names like Carrefour, Tesco and Alhold. This success is due, in addition to know-how, to close cooperation with local authorities. This is the context of its partnership for regenerating deteriorated areas in the industrial and mining zone in Orlová.

**Contact : Mr. Bohumir BOBAN, President of ACOM Czech Republic**

**For further information: [www.mesto-orlova.cz](http://www.mesto-orlova.cz)**



#### Creating a « call centre » in the Carmaux basin (France)

After the mines shut down in the Carmaux mining basin, the Committee for the Employment Basin of Northern Tarn initiated a thinktank on possible reconversion activities. One noteworthy outcome is the launch of a call centre in a territory of 100,000 inhabitants strongly marked by a monolithic coal industry. The mobilization of the various stakeholders (municipalities, departments, region, professionals) contributed to the operation for a first result with the creation of a telephone company employing 300 people. Based on the success of this project, the same firm is launching a second call centre which will have a staff of 200.

**Contact: M. Jean-Bernard BLAZY, Director of the Committee for the Employment Basin of Carmaux**



#### The Norres company (Germany): successful reconversion activity

The Norres company was created in 1889. For long time it made and supplied fuses for the mining industry. After the development of new technologies (revolutionary plastics for coating wires in fuses), it stopped working for the mining industry. Today, it has been able to double its activities thanks to its export turnover (30%), particularly to China, combined with the growth of the staff (85 employees). In addition, in 2001, after purchasing, depolluting and renovating the buildings of an abandoned company in an obsolete industrial zone (54,000 m<sup>2</sup>), it has continued to grow by hiring 30 people. The town of Gelsenkirchen sees Norres as a concrete example of an innovating company. This case illustrates how the process can be triggered to gradually brighten the traditionally bleak picture of a mining past.

**Contact : Mr. Andreas PIWEK, Department Manager**





#### The Rosa company. The effect of a « Special Economic Zone» Katowice (Poland)

The Rosa company is an example of successful diversification. This USE (very small company, two people – the founder Stanislaw Rosa and one employee) created in 1992 now includes three companies and a staff of 122. It initially specialized in electronic equipment, and now produces and markets (equipment, bulbs, sophisticated systems). It is set up particularly in an investment-friendly SEZ (special economic zone) in Katowice, (facilities for setting up, financial aids ...), funds allocated by the European Union contributed to its growth. Internal research and know-how have contributed to its reputation as an expert in its field. Rosa now exports 50% of its production.

Contact : Mr. Andrzej DZIUBA, Mayor of TYCHY  
For further information: [www.um.katowice.pl](http://www.um.katowice.pl)

#### The regional business incubator centre in Novosibirsk (Russia)

Before the restructuring of the mining sector, most of the Russian coal production came from the Rostov region. As a reaction to the thousands of jobs lost when the mines closed, two initiatives were launched: the first was an award of aid under certain conditions to former miners to facilitate their integration, and the second consisted of creating a regional "business incubator" centre in 1997 in Novosibirsk. This is a non-profit organization including 24 legal entities and natural persons (local employment agency, consultants, experts ...). It was initially financed (1997-2002) by funds for reorganizing the mining sector, and it helps entrepreneurs develop innovating projects. SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) seek its expertise and advice (business plan).

Contact : Mr. Anatoly ROZHKO, Assistance Manager of SOTSUGOL



#### IDEPA (Agency for the regional development of Asturias) - An instrument to serve reconversion (Spain)



IDEPA is a public organization in the Asturias Region based in Llanera technological park. Its job is to set up and promote the policy of the regional administration. To sum up, its objectives are as follows: encouraging modernization and diversification of economic activities and working for sustainable development. This dynamic must contribute to improving living conditions in the social fibre. The actions undertaken are based on obtaining investments, innovation and new management methods (participative, qualitative). Despite the persistence of certain problems (insufficient infrastructures, deteriorated environment), IDEPA shows encouraging and promising results: shift of the economy to the service sector, and growth of the rate of employment (multiplied by six from 1985 to 2003).

Contact : Mr. Hugo Alfonso MORAN, Mayor of LENA  
For further information: [www.idepa.es](http://www.idepa.es)

#### The success of the Special Economic Zones in the Ukraine (example taken from the «national report»)

Most mining is located in the Donbass basin (more than 70%). Special Economic Zones (S.E.Z.) have been set up there to help reorganize this sector which is less competitive today. Under the authority of the State, various laws concerning aid for the creation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) have attracted many investors (70 investment projects at the beginning of 2005 for investments of \$ 1.2 billion).

Contact : Mr. Yuri BOBROV, Director of ACOM UKRAINE



#### United-Kingdom example taken from the « national report » Public and private sectors serving the creation of businesses

British Coal Enterprise was specially created to finance companies trying to grow and to encourage private initiative (aids for developing business) in old coal mining regions. Managed by Enterprise Ventures, which represents the British government, it awards financing to constitute the initial equity. It is in a position to invest in most sectors, in compliance with the legal scheme in force.

Priority Sites is an EIG (Economic Interest Grouping) consisting of a private financial institution - the Royal Bank of Scotland - and a national development agency in the public sector. Its objective is to provide offices, plants and high-tech sites as part of an effort to reconvert and redevelop areas.

Contact : Mr. Martin CANTOR, Officer for European affairs of the BARNESLEY town council  
For further information: [www.barnsley.gov.uk](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk)

## 6. Training in coalfields

The role of initial and continuing education in the context of structural changes affecting mining basins was the focal point of the work of the sixth RECORE seminar.

This sixth seminar was organized by the German partner in the project: WISSENSCHAFTSPARK GELSENKIRCHEN (Gelsenkirchen scientific park). Presentations by various countries have shown the importance of initial and continuing training and social development in mining basins. In addition, case studies presented have pinpointed a number of experiments in the field..

### Common issues and problems

Coal mining basins in Europe have one thing in common: they have all undergone massive reductions in jobs due to the restructuring of the mining industry (cases of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Spain for example), or will be losing jobs with the restructuring that is going on now (the case of Poland, Czech Republic, Russia and the Ukraine). The question of reclassification of former miners is one of the issues for continual training policies in mining areas. **But these issues concern the entire population in these areas.** These regions are characterized by high rates of unemployment, lack of skilled labour and below average levels of training.

**The British delegation** declared that 20 years after the main plan for closing the mines, there were still 360,000 jobseekers in the mining regions in England and Wales. As long as the mines were active, their management took charge of training people. Today, since the mines have disappeared, the future of former miners essentially depends on schooling and their results at school. According to a survey done by an association of former miners, 69% of former miners have no real qualifications. A third of them have problems with reading and a fourth have problems in arithmetic. The British delegation explained that, given this situation, the obstacles to be overcome are considerable. This is particularly the case when the government sets up training courses emphasizing economic subjects.

Like in the United Kingdom, training issues in **mining regions in France** affect the population as a whole. The State is more particularly responsible for initial training, while the regions are in charge of continuing training. The French delegation emphasized the principle of « the right to lifelong education » which is a legal value. From a more operational standpoint, the « scheme for validating skills » was presented as an example of good practice. Finally, supply of training courses is particularly geared to the female population.

**Spain** highlighted positive experiences in certain training centres (for example the San Barbara Foundation in Galicia and Castilla). These centres give priority to vocational training programmes. Like in France, women are directly concerned by the supply of training courses.

The Spanish delegation also emphasized the need for preventive policies to troubleshoot crisis situations. The process of change is often hard to implement for disadvantaged populations. The role of the trade unions in the change process was also mentioned.

**In the Czech Republic**, the number of people requesting updating of their professional skills has increased. According to the Czech delegation, the largest demand pertains to the fields of computer sciences, crafts and engineering.

There is no doubt that, in the old and new Member States of the European Union, there are many unskilled miners who are still redundant. Figures on the situation in **Poland**, among others, confirm this: only one-third of the unemployed miners from Silesia were able to find a job without doing a training course; a second third sought a different job or a new qualification and 19% of them had to do training on the job. In most countries, like **Ukraine** or the **Czech Republic**, various reclassification programmes have been set up by national employment agencies or similar organizations.

The scale of the problems of course varies: in **Russia** for example, the number of minors fell from 860,000 to 250,000 over a 10-year period (from 1994 to 2004). Only 72,000 of the former miners have had an opportunity to take part in a reconversion programme. In Germany, the reduction of jobs from nearly 84,000 in 1997 to 39,000 in 2004 - was quite brutal as well. But it was possible to implement the plan for reducing the number of employees by including social measures (early retirement, apprenticeships, mediation for large groups, active intervention of the reclassification services).

## 6.1 Conclusions and main recommendations

Continual investment in training, more commitment from companies and deeper collaboration between old and new employers are essential elements. These can be the foundation for new perspectives for job openings and activities in reconversion basins.

- **Improving the general level of training is a prerequisite:** quality basic training and systematic vocational training have proved to be fundamental factors for overcoming periods of crisis. Optimizing financial resources of reconversion plans and the implementation of structural changes can be achieved when skill levels are sufficiently high
- **Collaboration between companies and training centres is crucial.** If the initial and vocational training policies are adapted to the economic world, the restructuring programmes will be more effective. Obstacles such as a gap between supply and demand for training could be avoided.

**Conclusion :** initial and continuing training in coal mining basins is a key factor for the future. Reinforcing training actions when jobs have been eliminated is an insufficient response. Training policies must be implemented preventively. Similarly, entrepreneurship must be encouraged.

## 6.2 Examples of good practices



### The effectiveness of the « Employment Pole Agency » for the integration of young people (Czech Republic)

The « Employment Pole Agency » has implemented an active programme for the integration of job-seekers, particularly young people, since May 2001. After a two-month training course (English, computer sciences, marketing, communication ...), participants in the programme do one year (at most) as an internship to acquire experience in the business world. This scheme is effective – since the end of the programme, 92% of participants have been recruited.

**Contact:** Mr. Ceslav VALOSEK, Director of ACOM Czech Republic

### GRETA, a permanent instrument for continuing training (France)

The « Greta » programme in Lens Liévin (GLL) is a vocational training pole covering the municipal districts of Lens and Liévin. This large structure (3000 participants, 300 employees, 37 vocational training centres and several technical secondary schools) with long experience has improved employability of several thousand jobseekers. In addition to financial resources, initiatives such as individual educational monitoring and personalized practical workshops facilitate access to employment.

**Contact:** Mr. Alain DEBUISSON, Deputy Mayor of WINGLES

**For further information:** [www.greta-lenslievin.fr/default.asp?id=373](http://www.greta-lenslievin.fr/default.asp?id=373)





#### Successful reclassification of former miners: example of the Dortmund Airport (Germany)

As a result of an extension, the Dortmund Airport needed 150 additional employees. Collaboration between the reclassification services and the airport developed a qualifying training course for the positions at the airport. After 2 years, 76 former miners had been retrained. Total conversion of activity is possible, subject to collaboration between public services and private companies and financing of adequate training for reclassification.

**Contact:** Mr. Thomas SCHIEMANN, head of the DSK (Deutsche Steinkohle) Department

**For further information:** [www.deutsche-steinkohle.de](http://www.deutsche-steinkohle.de)

#### A reclassification programme for employees in the industrial sector (Silesia - Poland)

The Silesia Region has set up a programme for upgrading skills of former workers in the industrial sector. This programme has enabled 70% of the 1800 participants (of which 20% are women) to find a job in 70 different professions. The keys to success for this programme called « Initiative » are a theoretical and practical training course, the creation of workshops and on-the-job training and having executive officers in companies develop the content of the training courses.

**Contact:** Mr. Konrad TAUSZ, an expert in the Central Mining Institute

**For further information:** [www.silesia-region.pl](http://www.silesia-region.pl)



#### Reintegration of dismissed minors: a example of Kemerovo (Russia)

Restructuring in the mining industry in Siberia caused dismissals of more than 40,000 employees. The regional centre for the development of human resources in Kemerovo has been able to help nearly 5000 jobseekers by providing a variety of vocational training courses (mechanics, electronics, automobile repair ...)

**Contact:** Mr. Anatoly ROZHNOV, Assistant Director of SOTSUGOL

**For further information:** [www.kemerovo.ru](http://www.kemerovo.ru)



#### A permanent foundation for equal opportunities (Spain)

The Foundation for the improvement of vocational training acts within the framework of the 1998-2005 programme for developing mining areas. By financing scholarships and vocational training programmes it has contributed to enhancing human resources and facilitating access to higher education, and thus to equal opportunities.

**Contact:** Mr. Hugo Alfonso MORAN, Mayor of LENA

**For further information:** [www.fundesfor.com](http://www.fundesfor.com)



#### Business creation to serve reinsertion (Ukraine)

Since 1999, the « Business Support Centre » in Donetsk has contributed to the objectives of social adjustment of miners. Since that time, seminars, vocational training courses and internships proposed by the centre, using the « incubator » model, have helped former miners or their families create several businesses. Thus local institutions have contributed to promoting private initiative.

**Contact:** Mr. Yuri BOBROV, Director of ACOM UKRAINE



#### Vocational training: a priority in the Sunderland development policy (United-Kingdom)

The town of the Sunderland illustrates how developments policies and skill enhancements can be taken into account in a local context. A set of strategies, backed by effective structures and players, have renovated vocational training practices by renewing qualifications and jobs, while taking account of the quality of life in the area.

**Contact:** Mr. Gordon BELL and Mr. Keith CUNLIFFE, Project leaders from the town of SUNDERLAND and WIGAN

**For further information:** [www.sunderland.com](http://www.sunderland.com)





# 3

## PART

# What development policy or policies do Europe's coal-mining regions need?

## 1. The regional policies

- 1.1 Inventory of the mining regions during the introduction of the regional policies
- 1.2 Main lessons learnt from the experience of regeneration policies in the coal-mining regions: aiming at sustainable development
- 1.3 What are the best methods to ensure sustainable development in the mining regions?

## 2. Lessons learnt on the use of the structural funds in the coal-mining regions

- 2.1 The 2000-2006 structural funds programme: impact on the coal-mining regions
- 2.2 The structural funds and the coal-mining regions: What is at stake for the future?

## 3. Interregional cooperation among the coal-mining regions: Lessons from the RECORE programme

- 3.1 Strengths and weaknesses of the RECORE programme
- 3.2 Guidelines for upcoming cooperation among the mining regions



## Conclusion

*The six thematic avenues explored during the RECORE programme have made it possible to identify **three cross-cutting themes**, which are common to all the regions. These are:*

- *the future of regional development policies,*
- *the use of structural funds,*
- *the need for interregional cooperation.*

*In light of the lessons learnt during the RECORE programme, this last part aims to highlight:*

- *the **specific characteristics of the mining regions** with respect to these cross-cutting themes, and*
- *the **strategies** required for the implementation of the regional policies, the use of the structural funds and interregional cooperation in the coal-mining regions.*

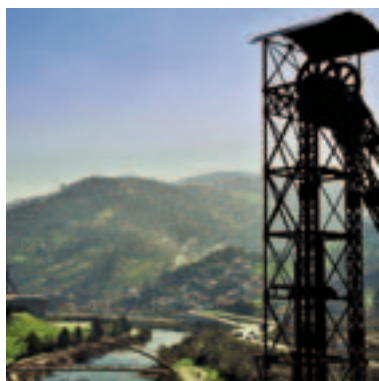
**Note on methodology:**

This third part takes into account the analyses presented by the various partners at the last RECORE programme seminar (Forbach – Lorraine, France April 2006).

The general analyses have been drafted by the experts commissioned to produce the present publication.

# 1. The regional policies

## 1.1 Inventory of the mining regions during the introduction of the regional policies



Coalfield of Spain



Coalfield of France

Before the regeneration process all Europe's coal-mining regions experienced the same underlying problems:

- an unsettled general situation characterised by the decline of the mining industry, a loss of employment and an ageing population;
- the changes of the socio-economic environment, with an increasing development of the tertiary sector;
- the pressure of globalisation (opening up of economies, globalisation of companies, etc.).

As mining was a single industry for some two centuries, it profoundly shaped and affected the areas in which it was carried out. This particularly long industrial tradition has left a heritage that can be burdensome (industrial wasteland, pollution, etc.).

The RECORE partners have pointed out the following **common characteristics** in the former mining regions:

- Difficulties and sometimes impossibility of re-orientating miners (moving from the public to the private sector);
- Regeneration projects ill-adapted to help develop activities with growth potential, in particular in the technology and services sectors;
- Limited financial resources and insufficient capital (own funds ) to enable a process of new business start-ups;
- Weak infrastructure in the single industry regions;
- Weak public and private institutional structures to facilitate the development of SME/SMIs (consultancy, simulation tools, e.g. business plans, market surveys, audits, etc.).

Alongside these common points there are obviously **numerous differences**.

For the countries of **Western Europe**, the regeneration of the coalfield areas started early (after the first oil shock or at the beginning of the 1980s). This resulted in an almost total cessation of coalmining in France, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Regeneration was set against a background of long-standing market economies, but the geography of the various mining regions is very diverse: isolated coalfields, such as those in Spain, or coalfields stretched out alongside rivers such as the Ruhr coalfield in Germany.





For the **Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC)**, several decades of centralised economic planning influenced the development policies of these countries. Since 1990, as these countries move to a market economy, they often swing between two poles: gradualism or shock therapy to introduce a liberal economy.

The mining industry, even during the restructuring process, still plays an important role, with large volumes of production and high employment levels. These mining regions are also more extensive than those in Western Europe. Finally, their environmental impact is also more significant.

As the RECORE programme has shown, the wide diversity of the various mining regions has engendered specific regeneration, redeployment and development policies.

## 1.2 Main lessons learnt from the experience of regeneration policies in the coal-mining regions: aiming at sustainable development

The good practice identified in the course of the RECORE programme falls in line with the aims of **sustainable development**.

## Good strategic practice...

The regional policies implemented in the Asturias coalfield in Spain are exemplary. Despite the region's geographic isolation, these policies are part of an **overall development policy**. A policy that is too limited in scope can be a recipe for failure.

In the United Kingdom, operations undertaken on some sites have also proved to be exemplary. In particular, they are based on the **encouragement of private investment and appropriate administrative arrangements**. Private investment, however, does not obviate the need for public aid.

**Strong regional organisation** (e.g.: Germany and Spain) also appears to be an effective means of conducting development policies. In this respect regions can have a leadership role to play. When a mine closes, it seems indispensable for the coal-mining regions to forge closer links with the large regional centres, for example Carmaux and Toulouse in France or the Asturias coalfield and Oviedo in Spain.

The promotion of culture can also be a key element in the regeneration of mining regions. This enhances their appeal as illustrated by the examples of Lille 2004 or the Louvre 2 in Lens (France).

Similarly, **the promotion of mining heritage** for leisure activities has shown real potential. The Wieliczka mine in Poland, for example, is visited each year by thousands of tourists.

Education, basic and vocational training all have their role to play in regeneration in terms of **investment in human capital**. These kinds of training, which still take place in the mining regions that are still operational (Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic), equip miners to be more reactive and widen their skills base. They also improve potential access to the world economy, which is dominated by a knowledge-based labour market.

Furthermore, the **cluster** model, presented at the Tychy and Oviedo seminars, is proving to be a type of development that should be given priority.

To conclude, the creation of **special economic zones** (SEZ) in the Central and Eastern European Countries (Russia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Poland) has been beneficial. They contribute to attracting foreign investment by encouraging firms to set up in them. By stimulating a region (drop in unemployment and social tension, reduction of the burden on the state through its subsidies to the mining industry, such capital input makes it possible to restructure the mining sector through successful diversification.





## 2.

# Lessons learnt on the use of the structural funds in the coal-mining regions

## 2.1 The 2000-2006 structural funds programme: impact on the coal-mining regions

### > General issues

Given the enlargement of the European Union from 15 to 25 member states, which took place in May 2004, the present analysis of the use of the structural funds can be divided into two parts.

**For the countries of Western Europe**, the use of the structural funds for the coal-mining regions is fully in line with the Lisbon Agenda, which was adopted in 2000 for the period 2000-2006. The use of funds in this way has generated gains in competitiveness in the areas of weak growth potential and those in decline. At the same time, it contributes to the economic and social harmonisation of the European territory (gains in productivity and the reduction of regional differences).

The purpose of the structural funds is primarily to counteract the negative consequences of economic restructuring. This is the case whether the targets are defined

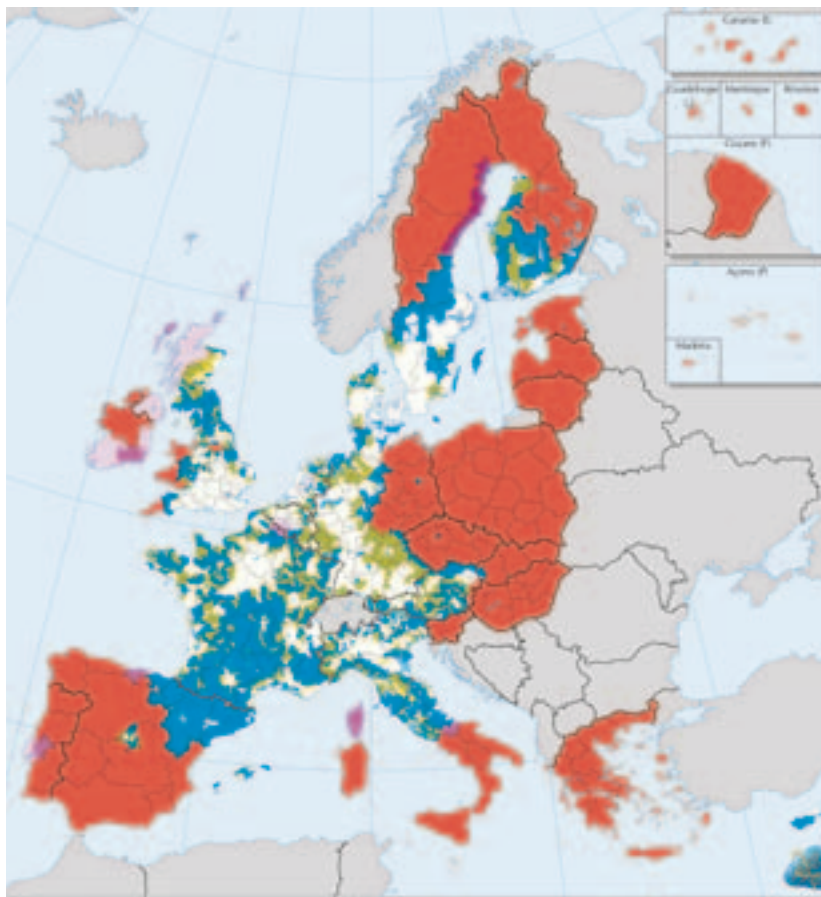
in terms of zones (backward zones, regeneration zones) or in terms of social categories (long-term unemployed; placements for young workers). As far as the coal-mining regions are concerned, the funds in question are the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), the ESF (European Social Fund) and the Cohesion Fund. **In this respect, the ERDF was an essential instrument to help restructure the mining regions.**

From 2000 to 2006 regional policy concentrated on specifically targeted objectives in order to increase its effectiveness and to reduce regional differences:

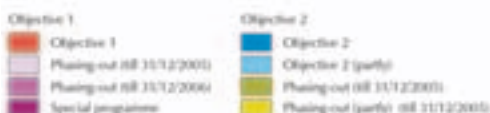
- **Objective 1**, the largest (70% of the budget): is for the development of the poorest regions whose GDP is less than 75% of the Community average.
- **Objective 2** (11.5% of the budget): is to support economic and social restructuring in areas suffering from structural problems (areas affected by the decline of traditional industries, rural areas seeking to diversify their activities and problem urban areas).
- **Objective 3** (12.5% of the budget): is to support the adaptation and modernisation of education policies and systems, training and access to employment in all the regions. The priority is the fight against unemployment and exclusion with a focus on lifelong learning.

**For the coal-mining regions in Central Europe**, the European Commission formally adopted programmes in June 2004. These outlined the strategies for the use of the structural funds in the ten new Member States, including Poland and the Czech Republic.

Taking the overall amount of the cohesion fund and the structural funds; the EU budget earmarked for the ten new Member States more than €24 billion between 2004 and 2006, of which more than one third (€8.5 billion) was allocated to the cohesion fund. With the exception of Cyprus, the nine new Member States are all eligible for Objective 1 funding.



Structural Funds 2004-2006: Areas eligible under Objectives 1 and 2



Data : DG REGIO

## › Regional Analyses

The general impacts of the structural funds on the partners of the RECORE programme in Western Europe have the following characteristics:



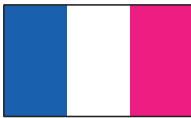
### **The ERDF and the Ruhr valley coalfield in Germany**

The majority of the funds allocated were used for the regeneration of the Ruhr valley coalfield. This region, which accounted for 70% of extraction before the beginning of the closures of the collieries, is eligible for Objective 2. Economic aspects and strategic sustainable development are two of the key elements for the regeneration of the Emscher valley in the Ruhr.



### **Mining regions in Spain: the General Mining Plan and the structural funds**

The development programmes appended to the General Mining Plan (1998-2005), introduced during this period were only possible thanks to the input of structural funds. Spain received significant European financial support throughout this period. The mining regions, which are classified as Objective 1, attracted ERDF and ESF funds. These regions suffered from severe isolation and had little infrastructure, but were able to improve this thanks to ERDF funding. Breaking the isolation was crucial to the redevelopment of the regions concerned.



### **Mining regions in France: the ERDF helps reclaim affected regions**

For the period 2000-2006, all the coal-mining areas in France were eligible for Objective 2 funding, (with the exception of the Eastern part of the North-Pas-de-Calais coalfield which is eligible for Objective 1). In these coal-mining regions, ERDF grants have made it possible to support projects to improve infrastructure, the redevelopment of former collieries and the development of economic activity zones. These policies have contributed to the introduction of sustainable development schemes (sanitisation, greening, protection of water tables).



### **Mining regions of the United Kingdom: the ERDF, the key to regeneration**

The implementation of social cohesion policy (article 158 of the Treaty) using the structural funds; is crucial for the rehabilitation of the former coal-mining regions. The funds allocated during the period 2000-2006 for the coal-mining regions, such as those in Yorkshire, made a valuable contribution to their redevelopment. Without the support of EU funding, this would hardly have been possible. Other areas, such as the coal-mining regions in Scotland, the East Midlands and the North-East, which are eligible for Objective 2 or 3 funding, are making progress with regeneration. The South Wales, which has the oldest coalfields in the country and which is eligible for Objective 1 funds, is reporting less positive results.



### **Poland: the experience of pre-accession instruments**

It is still too early to assess the impact of the structural funds, in particular as far as sustainable development and equal opportunities are concerned. Nevertheless, it is important to point out that the regions which received funding before Poland's accession to the EU are drawing greater benefit from it. This is the case of the Slaskie voivodship which, from 1992 (then known as the Katowice region), benefited from the Strüder programme, a PHARE sub-programme. This latter introduced planning and regional development concepts. The building of new infrastructure together with projects aimed at the regeneration of polluted areas and environmental protection were the main avenues of development at that time. It should also be noted that equal opportunities policy was also taken into consideration.

The PHARE programme (1989) (Acronym of the Poland and Hungary Assistance for the Restructuring of the Economy), introduced following the Essen European Council in 1994, was given greater substance from the year 2000. It then applied to the 10 candidate countries. The PHARE programme was one of the three European Union pre-accession financial instruments for the CEEC.

Finally, the ISPA programme (Instruments of Structural Policies for Pre-Accession - particularly for investment in road infrastructure) was the other pre-accession financial instrument associated with PHARE. In Silesia, ISPA was used to build a section of the A4 motorway and an expressway (Bielsko-Biala-Cieszyn).

*Without EU funding issues concerning the environment or cultural heritage would not have been raised or dealt with.*



## Czech Republic: the experience of Havrův - Ostrava

Prior to EU accession the Czech Republic benefited from the PHARE special aid programme for the Ostrava – Havířka region. During the period 2000-2004, as did all the other new democracies in Eastern Europe, the Czech Republic received €147 million from the European Union's pre-accession funds. These were invested in Moravia-Silesia. The PHARE 2000 programme supported projects in production, infrastructure development and support for SMEs.

Since joining the EU, the Czech Republic has received financial aid from the structural funds (from 2004 to 2006). Five operational programmes are currently active. They focus on the infrastructure construction, the development of training, industrial redeployment, entrepreneurship in rural areas, etc. An amount of €73 million has been allocated to the Moravia-Silesia region. Resources from the cohesion fund have made it possible to support two types of project:

- Environmental projects focusing on sustainable development; and
- Development projects for road infrastructure as part of the Trans-European Network initiated by the EU.

## 2.2 The structural funds and the coal-mining regions: What is at stake for the future?

### › Regional policies in the mining regions and the “Lisbon objectives”



Europe's mining regions have garnered significant experience of initiatives aimed at enhancing economic competitiveness. Thanks to support from the EU's structural funds and cohesion fund; these regions are already working towards some of the fundamental aspects of the Lisbon Agenda. These **efforts should be pursued in the future.**

The objectives of the Lisbon strategy are, in fact, giving direction to the application of the structural funds. Economic growth, for instance, is a common objective. In the regional programmes this objective translates into efforts aimed at the convergence of Member States and regions in terms of per capita GDP. Indeed, the content of the programmes includes nearly all the Lisbon themes. Support from the structural funds has made it possible to implement projects for job creation, information technology, research, human capital, enterprise development, social insertion and sustainable development.

These objectives are important for the mining regions both in Western and Eastern Europe. Despite their economic difficulties the **gains in competitiveness are potentially significant**. However, there are improvements which can and should be made.



Press conference  
Gelsenkirchen seminar / Germany

### › Three ways ahead that should be given priority

With respect to the structural funds, the RECORE programme partners have identified three main areas at stake:

- the continuation of policies already started
- the definition of the next operational regional programmes
- the optimal use of the structural funds



RECORE's contributions to the discussion about the structural funds have been particularly relevant. It has thus been possible to analyse the regional policies undertaken in the various regions. RECORE's work therefore forms the **basis for future discussion to assess, enhance and correct the policies already implemented**. In the future, RECORE's contribution will provide essential input to define future policy and objectives.

The French delegation, for example, considers that the **red tape involved in the administration of the structural funds is cumbersome and disabling**. It prevents effective policies from being implemented. The Czech Republic has the same position; according to its delegation the national institutions are not capable of preparing and signing contracts in time. In other words; the procedure for the use of the funds is too complex and too bureaucratic and is a very threat to the financial benefits of the funds.

To sum up, the three ways ahead that should govern the use of the structural funds in the policies drawn up for the restructuring of the mining regions:

### › Interregional cooperation among the coal-mining regions: Lessons from the RECORE programme

Against a wider background, RECORE's work has also made it possible to draw up an **inventory of Europe's mining regions**. This inventory could prove to be very useful for the drafting of proposals for actions in favour of these regions. In this respect, the Czech Republic is hoping to secure a budget of €100 million for 2007-2013 to implement operational programmes in Moravia-Silesia. The budget would break down as follows: 40% on infrastructure, 15% on support to enterprises, 15% on tourism and the remainder divided between education and local policy.

Cohesion policy represents 37.5% of the total European budget, 62% of which must finance projects linked to the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs. It should enable the mining regions, depending on the amounts awarded, to continue their regeneration.



# 3. Interregional cooperation among the coal-mining regions: Lessons from the RECORE programme

## 3.1 Strengths and weaknesses of the RECORE programme

The first sub-theme will be studied using SWOT analysis, which concentrates on the assessment of Strengths (S), Weaknesses (W), Opportunities (O) and Threats (T). The SWOT analysis was carried out by the programme partners during the final seminar.

### ✦ After RECORE: Strengths and opportunities

- Relevance and **coherence of the issues selected** with respect to the problems encountered in the coal-mining regions. (Infrastructure, environment, etc.)
- Capacity to undertake **collective action** in the long term (3 years) as part of an effective partnership; successful cooperation underpinned by networking.
- Active participation of **local authority representatives**. Such participation is essential to maximize local and regional impact.
- Demonstration of the **convergence of view-points**, over and above national differences. Demonstration of the need for transparency in the programmes devoted to solving the mining regions' problems.
- **Representativeness of the partners** at national and European level.
- Strengthening the **networks** among Europe's mining regions (Euracom).
- **Dissemination of information** to all partners by means of the regular publication of proceedings of the various seminars and through the programme's web-site.
- **Sustainability of interregional cooperation**, by means of the regular exchange of experience, which can thus enable a re-assessment of policies and programmes.

### ✦ After RECORE: Weaknesses and threats

- The non-continuity of the project (the most important threat).
- Limitations of some approaches which are too focussed on national issues. As a result it becomes difficult to outline overarching approaches and to draft a synthesis of the various contributions. This problem was solved by calling on external experts and by using the skills of project coordinators from each country.
- Unsystematic consideration of the information surrounding the projects by national and regional media.
- Persistently over-negative image of the mining regions (from the "black countries" to "green spaces").
- No reply yet received for the call to organise seminars in Russia or Ukraine. Such seminars would enable all the partners to benefit from the experience of regeneration in these countries.
- Need to exchange know-how at local level by using specialist technicians to evaluate the most interesting projects (Closer cooperation on specific themes).



Oviedo seminar / Spain



Gelsenkirchen seminar / Germany



Ostrava seminar / Czech Republic



Forbach seminar / France



## 3.2 Guidelines for upcoming cooperation among the mining regions

"In your view, which subjects are relevant for further discussion in the framework of upcoming cooperation among the mining regions?" This was the question asked of the RECORE programme partners during the preparation of the RECORE summary seminar, held on 12-13-14 April 2006 at Forbach (France). The suggestions below are drawn from the replies given to this question by the various members of EURACOM:

- Exchange of experiences in the legal field, in order to provide better protection, in accordance with European Union law, to mining communities and their inhabitants faced with the threats posed by regeneration.
- Evaluation of the lobbying methods and strategies to help mining communities.
- Research on the optimisation of the methods and means of using European funds.
- Specific allocation of European funds to restructure coal-mining regions.
- Improve the subsidy grant process by preliminary analysis of the relevance of the operations to be financed. (Matching projects to the requirements of the subsidies awarded).
- Enhancing partnerships (bilateral and multilateral)
- Prioritising the exchange of experience, both towards regions where the restructuring process has already been implemented and to those where the process is beginning.
- Exchange of experience on the use of renewable energy (solar power, biomass, etc.)
- Preservation of the Trans-European cultural heritage of mining and the waves of immigration.



Mr SCHMITZ-BORCHERT, Director Science Park Gelsenkirchen (DE)



Mr FLANNAGAN, President ACOM United-Kingdom CCC



Mr MORAN, Mayor Léna (ES)



Mr BOBAK, President Acom Czech Republic



Mr HUCHEIDA, Euracom Secretary General, President Acom France



Mr CHERNI, Director Acom Russia



Mr CHRÓŚCZ, President Acom Poland



Mr RAPHAY, President Euracom



Mr BOBROU, Director Acom Ukraine

## Conclusion

As the first programme newsletter (June 2004) made clear, RECORE is an unprecedented programme of exchange of experience, focussing on the regeneration of Europe's mining regions. The newsletter pointed out that the ambition of the RECORE programme, co-financed by INTERREG III C, is to capitalise on the experience of regeneration, in order to enhance the implementation of redevelopment policies for these regions.

The difficulties encountered in regenerating what economists and geographers describe as "black countries" are still topical. They are experienced by the former mining regions in Western Europe and by those in the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) alike. Despite the differences in economic, social and political history and geographical characteristics specific to each region, all these regions are faced with common problems of regeneration.

In order to avoid disaster scenarios of industrial wastelands and the concomitant population decline, proactive policies are necessary. Such policies, which the RECORE programme partners have called for, require long-term planning. The examples of live operations and those presented in the framework of the programme are an illustration of this.

For the regions concerned the RECORE programme has identified the areas of potential action, which could lead to successful restructuring. For all the partners, the value of the RECORE programme has been obvious. It has highlighted the needs and potential of mining regions to reduce regional disparities, against a backdrop of sustainable development, regional competitiveness and equal opportunities. On condition that the financial instruments of the European Union regional development are made available, the regional policies have a future in the mining regions. This is what is at stake for the period 2007/2013.

■

BARNSELEY seminar / United-Kingdom  
Infrastructure improvement in coalfields

OSTRAVA seminar / Czech Republic  
Environment remediation in coalfields

LEWARDE seminar / France  
Mining heritage - leisure and tourism

QUIEDO seminar / Spain  
Foreign investments in coalfields

TYCHY seminar / Poland  
Support to SME/SMI in coalfields

GELSENKIRCHEN seminar / Germany  
Training in coalfields

FORBACH seminar / France  
What kind of development policy for european coalfields

November 2006 › BRUSSELS / Belgium

## Appendix 2: List of attendance at the thematic seminars

ABSOLON	Jiri	CZECH REPUBLIC	GULYANASHA	Maya	GERMANY	PETERS	Manfred	GERMANY
ADAMCZYH	Hazimierz	POLAND	GUTTIAREZ	Vicente	SPAIN	PETRAS	Antonin	CZECH REPUBLIC
ANDERSON	Neil	UNITED KINGDOM	HAERTEL	Klaus	GERMANY	PHILIPPS	Victoria	UNITED-KINGDOM
ARMIT	Tadeusz	POLAND	HALTER	Marcel	FRANCE	PIERCHALA	Elzbieta	POLAND
BALCEA	Marek	POLAND	HAUG	Jutta	GERMANY	PILALIDIS	Nikos	GREECE
BARGIEL	Joachim	POLAND	HECZHO	Eduard	CZECH REPUBLIC	PILAREL	Agnieszka	POLAND
BARILLIER	Pierre	FRANCE	HITTER	René	FRANCE	PISTOLAS	Christos	BELGIUM
BARREÑADA	Marciano	SPAIN	HOBSON	Mark	UNITED KINGDOM	PIWEH	Andreas	GERMANY
BEBEN	Marian	POLAND	HOELLINGER	Laurent	FRANCE	PLASIL	Josef	CZECH REPUBLIC
BELL	Gordon	UNITED-KINGDOM	HOLECEH	Vaclav	CZECH REPUBLIC	POLUNIN	Oleksandr	UKRAINE
BELLIART	Tuphaine	FRANCE	HOULLIER	Laurent	FRANCE	POP	Sorin	ROMANIA
BENSAADA	Benamar	FRANCE	HUEBNER	Michael	GERMANY	POPOU	Vladimir	RUSSIA
BEREZOWSKI	Hajetan	POLAND	HULSMANN	Thorsten	GERMANY	PRYMYACHENHO	Mykola	UKRAINE
BINDUJ	Nicolae	ROMANIA	IULL	Deborah	UNITED-KINGDOM	PRZEORASHA	Anna	POLAND
BLADT	Paul	FRANCE	JAGODA	Stanislaw	POLAND	PUDA	Dominik	POLAND
BLAZY	Jean - Bernard	FRANCE	JAGODA	Ludwik	POLAND	PUSTELNIK	Bernard	POLAND
BOBAK	Bohumir	CZECH REPUBLIC	JAILLANT	Jean-Paul	FRANCE	RAPHAY	Bernhard	GERMANY
BOBROU	Yuri	UKRAINE	JANTZ	Birke	GERMANY	RAWTHORNE	Tom	UNITED KINGDOM
BOLCHIS	Radu-Ionel	ROMANIA	JASICZEK	Krystyna	POLAND	RAZAFINDRATANDRA	Yuan	FRANCE
BORCA	Véronique	FRANCE	KALINASHA	Wanda	POLAND	RECORBET	Jean-Marc	FRANCE
BOUCHEZ	Michel	FRANCE	KAPLUNOV	Yuri	RUSSIA	REED	Graeme	UNITED-KINGDOM
BOUTSEN	Paul	BELGIUM	KARAFIOL	Michal	POLAND	RODGER	John	UNITED KINGDOM
BOUWIER	Laurent	FRANCE	KAWCZYNSKI	Edmond	FRANCE	RODRIGUEZ	Elias	SPAIN
BUCHTA	Piotr	POLAND	HAZMIERCZEK	Roland	FRANCE	ROLLS	Mark	UNITED KINGDOM
CANTOR	Martin	UNITED-KINGDOM	KLAPUCH	Jean-Pierre	FRANCE	ROODEN	Jaak	ESTONIA
CAUDRON	Patrick	FRANCE	KORNAS	Marek	POLAND	ROWLINSON	Peter	UNITED-KINGDOM
CAYLA	Philippe	FRANCE	HOSTERMANN	Dieter	GERMANY	ROZHOU	Anatoly	RUSSIA
CHERNI	Alexander	RUSSIA	KOWALCZYK	Andrzej	POLAND	SCHEIMANN	Thomas	GERMANY
CHOLLEY	Sandrine	FRANCE	KRYWALSKI	Wilhelm	POLAND	SCHMITZ-BORCHERT	Heinz-Peter	GERMANY
CHOPIN	Claude	FRANCE	KUBALA	Justyna	POLAND	SCHUH	Gilbert	FRANCE
CHROSZCZ	Tadeusz	POLAND	KUCHEIDA	Jean Pierre	FRANCE	SEGUIGNES	Daniel	FRANCE
CICHY	Hazimierz	POLAND	KYSELOU	Leonid	UKRAINE	SHUETSOU	Alexander	RUSSIA
COPS	Verle	BELGIUM	LAINÉ	Guillermo	SPAIN	SILBERT	Pawel	POLAND
CRUTE	Rob	UNITED-KINGDOM	LAMALFA	Alejandro	SPAIN	SIPULA	Wladislaw	CZECH REPUBLIC
CUNLIFFE	Keith	UNITED-KINGDOM	LAUCLHAN	Jane	UNITED-KINGDOM	SLIPSTOU	Volodymyr	UKRAINE
CZARSKI	Michal	POLAND	LECLERCQ	Patricia	FRANCE	SMITH	John	UNITED KINGDOM
CZYZ	Stanislaw	POLAND	LEMOINE	Bertrand	FRANCE	SOCHA	Waldemar	POLAND
DAGBERT	Michel	FRANCE	LENFLE	Roger	FRANCE	SOLNTSEU	Viktor	RUSSIA
DEBES	Carsten	GERMANY	LEWIS	Neil	UNITED KINGDOM	SPRIET	Thomas	FRANCE
DEBUSSON	Alain	FRANCE	LIENEMANN	Marie-Noëlle	FRANCE	STEINGRABER	Wolfgang	GERMANY
DELATTRE	Patrice	FRANCE	LIPNER	Jan	CZECH REPUBLIC	STRANWEISS	Charles	FRANCE
DELMOTTE	Louis	FRANCE	LORENTE-ARNAU	Lucia	UNITED-KINGDOM	SUAREZ	Antonio	SPAIN
DEVON	John	UNITED KINGDOM	LUDWICZUK	Roman	POLAND	SZALENIC	Iwona	POLAND
DILLY	Claude	FRANCE	LUKASIEWICZ	René	FRANCE	SZYROHA	Huetuse	CZECH REPUBLIC
DIXON	Joan	UNITED-KINGDOM	LUK'YANCHENHO	Oleksandr	UKRAINE	TALLIEZ	Sophie	FRANCE
DOMIN	Wieslaw	POLAND	LUKH	Ain	ESTONIA	TARANOWSKI	Bogdan	POLAND
DRAAGON	Tadeusz	POLAND	MAGIERA	Barbara	POLAND	TAUSZ	Honrad	POLAND
DROWIN	René	FRANCE	MAISO	Isaías	SPAIN	THOMAS	Céline	FRANCE
DUBUC	André	FRANCE	MARIN	Luis Fernando	SPAIN	THOMSON	John	UNITED-KINGDOM
DUFOR	Audrey	FRANCE	MARINEZ	Cipriano Elias	SPAIN	THACHENHO	Vasyl	UKRAINE
DUNAJHO	Ray	UNITED-KINGDOM	MAROSZEK	Wojciech	POLAND	TROJEK	Petr	CZECH REPUBLIC
DUVIVIER	Jean - Marie	FRANCE	MARTINEZ	ELIAS	SPAIN	TSOLHA	Victoria	GREECE
DZIUBA	Andrzej	POLAND	MATHE	Nathalie	FRANCE	UTRATA	Henryk	POLAND
ELLIOT	John	UNITED-KINGDOM	MAZEL	Michel	FRANCE	VALOSEH	Ceslav	CZECH REPUBLIC
EZQUERRA	Javier	SPAIN	MENFI	Jeannot	FRANCE	VANDAMME	Thomas	FRANCE
FAGES	Charles	FRANCE	METELYTSYA	Juan	UKRAINE	VASAS	Mihály	HUNGARY
FARANA	Vladimir	CZECH REPUBLIC	MINIZ	Jesus Manuel	SPAIN	VAZQUEZ	Juan	SPAIN
FAUTH	Jacqueline	FRANCE	MIO	Daniel	FRANCE	VENMAEKERS	Michel	BELGIUM
FENWICH	Alan	UNITED-KINGDOM	MOCEH	Pawel	POLAND	VICHA	Petr	CZECH REPUBLIC
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GEDO	Benjamin	SPAIN	PADILLA	Jean	FRANCE	WOJACZEK	Piotr	POLAND
GHOZI	Daniel	FRANCE	PARRY	David	UNITED-KINGDOM	WOODSIDE	John	UNITED-KINGDOM
GIBSON	Councillor	UNITED-KINGDOM	PASTUSZKA	Jacek	POLAND	WYANE	Griff	UNITED-KINGDOM
GIELECIAH	Zbigniew	POLAND	PELLET	Gwendoline	FRANCE	YEFREMOU	Mykola	UKRAINE
GRAU	Valery	RUSSIA	PERCHERON	Daniel	FRANCE	YOUNG	Bob	UNITED-KINGDOM
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